

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A system for managing information, comprising:

a ~~software program stored on a~~ non-transitory computer-readable medium storing a software program operable to maintain an identity index, wherein said identity index comprises:

a plurality of index keys, wherein each index key indexes a virtual identity of a respective one of a plurality of users;

a plurality of virtual identities[[y]], wherein each virtual identity is indexed within the identity index by one the plurality of index keys, wherein each virtual identity is a virtual identity of a respective one of the plurality of users of multiple computer resources, wherein each virtual identity comprises identity information of the respective user in regard to multiple different computer resources used by the same respective user, and wherein one or more of the virtual identities comprises further comprising:

a plurality of information object identifiers, wherein each information object identifier identifies corresponding to a respective information object of the respective user stored at a respective one of the multiple different computer resources; and for each information object,

a plurality of resource names, wherein each resource name identifies[[ying]] which one of the multiple different computer resources at which said contains a respective one of the information objects of the respective user is located, wherein each said resource name is associated with said

respective linked to a respective one of the plurality of  
information object identifiers; and

wherein said identity index further comprises a plurality of resource  
definitions, wherein each resource definition is a definition of a  
corresponding to each respective said-named one of the multiple  
computer resources, wherein [[the]] each resource definition  
further comprises connection information for the respective  
computer resource; and

wherein the software program is operable to access the identity index via  
one of the plurality of index keys to locate and retrieve, from  
within the identity index, information from a respective one of the  
plurality of virtual identities indexed by the one of the index keys.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein one or more of said  
plurality of resource definitions further comprises a schema map.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said schema map maps a resource  
attribute from said resource to a virtual attribute defined by said schema map.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein a virtual attribute value for said  
virtual attribute is stored in RAM.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said connection  
information contains a connection parameter selected from one of a hostname, a port, a  
resource username, a resource password or a resource type.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said respective information objects comprises a user account.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said information object identifier comprises an account name.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein one or more of said plurality of resource definitions further comprises a schema map.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute from said resource to a virtual attribute defined by said schema map.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein a virtual attribute value for said virtual attribute is maintained in RAM.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said connection information contains a connection parameter selected from one of a hostname, a port, a resource username, a resource password or a resource type.

15. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said resource is one of a Unix system, a Windows NT system, a Oracle database system or an email server.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said software program is operable to connect to each of said multiple different computer resources based on said respective resource definitions.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein one or more of said plurality of resource definitions further comprises a schema map; and

wherein, said software program is operable to create a composite view of said virtual identity based on said schema map.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said software program is operable to present a representation of said composite view in a graphical user interface.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said graphical user interface is customizable.

20. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A method of managing information, comprising:

storing an identity index comprising:

a plurality of index keys, wherein each index key indexes a virtual identity of a respective one of a plurality of users;

a plurality of virtual identities, wherein each virtual identity is indexed within the identity index by one the plurality of index keys, wherein each virtual identity is a virtual identity of a respective one of the plurality of users, wherein each virtual identity comprises identity information of the respective user in regard to multiple different computer resources used by the same respective user, and wherein one or more of the virtual identities comprises:

a plurality of information object identifiers, wherein each ~~corresponding to a set of~~ information object[[s]] identifier identifies a respective information object of the respective

~~that define a user stored at a respective one of the multiple different computer resources; and~~

a plurality of resource names, wherein each resource name identifies which one of the multiple different computer resources contains a respective one of the information objects of the respective user, wherein each said resource name is linked to a respective one of the plurality of information object identifiers; and

a plurality of associating a resource definitions with each information object identifier, wherein each resource definition corresponds to is a definition of a different one of the multiple computer resources at which the information object corresponding to the associated information object identifier is located, and wherein each resource definition contains connection information for the corresponding computer resource; and

accessing the identity index via one of the plurality of index keys to locate and retrieve, from within the identity index, information from a respective one of the plurality of virtual identities indexed by the one of the index keys.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein each information object identifier from said plurality of information object identifiers comprises one of said plurality of index keys as a native key for the corresponding information object.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said native key comprises an account name.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein each information object comprises a user account.

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein each resource definition further comprises a schema map.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute to a virtual attribute.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising creating a composite view of a user based on said schema map from each resource definition.